

Title: **Floundering among frameworks?**

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Abstract: This session proposes to review and critically discuss the potential for conceptual approaches addressing human and economic development in the context of the fisheries sector. Recent research, informed by a wide range of frameworks in development studies, is greatly increasing our understanding of the lives and livelihoods of fishing people and the complex multi-directional links between human welfare, governance failures and fish stock decline. Because much of this research is conducted as part of development programmes and projects, it provides a rich source of experience in assessing how these concepts are translated into policy and practice. To date, there has been no systematic attempt to evaluate which of the many novel approaches that compete for our attention are proving most useful. Which framework will help to best diagnose and address the problems and opportunities facing small-scale fishers in low-income countries? Contributing authors and session participants will explore the answer to this question.